RARY

URBAN DISTRICT
OF
HOLMFIRTH

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1947

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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BY

ERIC WARD

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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HOLMFIRTH

URBAN DISTRICT

LIST OF COUNCILLORS

for the year 1947

Chairman: F. H. SOWERBY, Esq., J.P.

Vice Chairman: N. MARSH, Esq.

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R. RIPPON, Esq.
G. ROBERTS, Esq.
A. SWIFT, Esq.
C. E. THORNTON, Esq.
A. TOLSON, Esq.
W. TURNER, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

THOMAS S. DAVY, M.B., Ch.B.
(Until 31-12-47)

ERIC WARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1-1-48)

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

I. HAIGH

Sanitary Inspector

S. BRAY

Divisional Health Office,
Woodville,
Scar Lane,
GOLCAR,
Nr. Huddersfield.

February, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Holmfirth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the health of the Holmfirth Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1947. The Report is the 10th in the series since the formation of the enlarged Urban District in 1938.

For the whole of the period covered by this Report your Medical Officer of Health was Dr. T. S. Davy, who relinquished his appointment on the 31st December, 1947, on the Council adopting the County Council Scheme of Divisional Health Administration. Under this scheme all the medical services in the area are administered together by one Medical Officer acting as Divisional Medical Officer for County Council work, and as Medical Officer of Health for the sanitary authorities within the Division. Holmfirth Urban District is placed in Division No. 20, which also includes the Urban Districts of Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Kirkburton and Meltham.

Owing to the above mentioned circumstances it will be appreciated that this Report is based largely on information supplied by Dr. Davy, the Sanitary Inspectors and other Officials of the Council, to all of whom I wish to tender my thanks for their valuable assistance.

Apart from the occurrence of 6 cases of Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis during the summer there was no abnormal incidence of infectious or other diseases during the year.

The Birth Rate for the District is slightly below those for the West Riding and England & Wales, whilst the Death Rate is somewhat above those for the same administrative areas.

Housing, both new building and the reconditioning of existing property, is probably the most pressing need of the District at the present time. Progress has been made during the year with the erection of new houses but the lack of amenities such as baths, hot water systems, the existence of large numbers of insanitary privy closets and the general obsolescence of many of the existing houses, increase considerably the magnitude of the housing problem. A routine housing survey of the whole District is urgently needed so that as soon as building conditions permit energetic steps can be taken to improve housing conditions generally, and in particular to secure the abolition of privies, middens and ashpits.

In conclusion, I wish to tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the welcome I received from them on taking up my appointment, and to express my appreciation for the help and co-operation given me by the Clerk and other Officials of the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC WARD,

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area in Acres	17,565
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1946)	18,460
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1947)	18,680
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1947	6,152
Rateable Value (31st March, 1948)	£92,057
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (March, 1948)	£364

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	192	158	350
Illegitimate	3	5	8
Total	195	163	358

Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population..... 19.16

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	5	5	10

Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births..... 27.17

Deaths (Males 132, Females 137)	269
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popul tion	14.40
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	NIL

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	10	5	15
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	10	5	15

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	41.90
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42.86
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	NIL

Death Rate per 1,000 population from:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.21
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.32
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	0.96
Cancer	2.03
Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria)	NIL
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea (children under 2 years of age)	2
Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of children under 2 years of age per 1,000 births	5.59

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The Urban District of Holmfirth is situated on the northern slopes of the Pennines and lies to the south of the County Borough of Huddersfield. The general conformation of the country is very hilly, being comprised of several ridges with their corresponding valleys. The altitude varies from 300 feet at Honley to over 1,700 feet on Holme Moss.

Down the main valley flows the River Holme which is fed by several streams. The southern part of the District is wild and rugged and a considerable part of the area consists of moorland. The principal townships in the District are Holmfirth in the centre of the area and Honley in the northern portion.

The chief industry is the manufacture of woollen cloth, but farming, stone quarrying and engineering also provide occupation for a considerable number of the inhabitants.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births, a net total of 358 live births (195 male, 163 female) was registered in the District during the year, an increase of 48 compared with the previous year.

The BIRTH RATE is 19.16 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 16.8 for the previous year.

The illegitimate live births number 8 or 2.23% of the total live births, a decrease of 4 compared with the previous year.

Stillbirths

After adjustment for transfers, 10 stillbirths were registered during the year as compared with 11 for the previous year. This figure gives a rate of 27.17 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and 0.54 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 34.27 and 0.59 respectively for 1946.

Deaths

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in and assigned to the District was 269 (132 male, 137 female), an increase of 42 on the total for the year 1946.

The DEATH RATE is 14.40 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 12.3 for the previous year.

The following were the principal causes of death in order of frequency:-

(i)	Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	97
(ii)	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	40
(iii)	Cancer	38
(iv)	Respiratory Diseases excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18
(v)	Nephritis	8
(vi)	Prematurity	7
(vii)	Tuberculosis, all forms	6

These 7 causes accounted for 79.55% of the total deaths. Particulars of the various causes of death and the sex distribution are given in the following table:-

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	3	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Influenza	3	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	1	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	2	-	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	5	8
Cancer of Breast	-	6	6
Cancer of all other sites	13	9	22
Diabetes	1	4	5
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	13	27	40
Heart Diseases	42	42	84
Other diseases of the Circulatory System	7	6	13
Bronchitis	10	1	11
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	-	2
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases	4	2	6
Nephritis	4	4	8
Premature Births	3	4	7
Congenital malformations, birth injury, infant diseases	2	-	2
Suicide	2	-	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
Other Violent Causes	1	3	4
All other causes	11	14	25
All Causes	132	137	269

Maternal Deaths and Mortality

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other maternal causes.

Infant Mortality

After correction for transferable deaths there were 15 deaths (10 male, 5 female) of infants under 1 year of age, an increase of 5 compared with the previous year.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE is 41.90 per 1,000 live births as compared with 32.29 for the previous year.

The death rate amongst legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births is 42.86.

There were no deaths of illegitimate children under 1 year of age.

Comparative Statistics

	Holmfirth Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional figures)
BIRTH RATE Per 1,000 estimated population	19.2	21.6	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES: All per 1,000 estimated population.				
All Causes	14.4	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)	0.11	0.16	0.16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.21	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)	0.96	1.41	1.37	**
Cancer	2.03	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	5.19	4.23	3.98	**
INFANT MORTALITY:	42	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA: (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	5.59	5.17	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY:				
Puerperal Sepsis	--	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	--	0.88	1.07	0.91
Total	--	**1.12**	**1.28**	**1.17**

** Figures not available.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

In addition to the Medical Officer of Health who is a part time officer, the staff consists of 2 Sanitary Inspectors, one of whom is also Cleansing Superintendent.

Laboratory Facilities

All the bacteriological laboratory work required to be undertaken by the Health Department and by General Practitioners is carried out at the Wakefield Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance Facilities

(a) For cases of Infectious Diseases:
The ambulance of the Colne & Holme Joint Isolation Hospital is used for the removal to hospital of cases of infectious diseases.

(b) Cases of Sickness and Accident:
An ambulance owned by the Urban District Council is available for accident work. Facilities were provided for cases of sickness by the Huddersfield & District Hospitals Contributory Scheme until the 26th September, 1947, when the service was taken over by the West Riding County Council. The Ambulance Depot is situated at Huddersfield and service is provided free of charge.

Professional Nursing in the Home

General: Home nursing is undertaken by nurses employed by the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital Committee and the Honley District Nursing Association, 2 nurses being employed by each of these bodies.

Infectious Diseases: No arrangements are made for the nursing of cases of infectious diseases at home

Midwifery: There are 2 full-time midwives employed by the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital Committee for domiciliary duties in Holmfirth and New Mill. The 2 nurses employed by the Honley District Nursing Association are also practising midwives.

Treatment Centres, Clinics and Hospitals

Infant Welfare Centres
Held weekly at Holmfirth and Honley.

Ante-Natal Clinics
Held monthly at Holmfirth. Expectant mothers may also be seen at the Honley Infant Welfare Centre by prior arrangement.

Infant Weighing Centre
Held weekly at New Mill.

School Clinics
Held weekly at Holmfirth. Schoolchildren may be seen, if necessary, at the Honley Infant Welfare Centre, and, for minor ailments only, at the New Mill Weighing Centre.

Tuberculosis Dispensary
Held Tuesday afternoon and Friday afternoon at 1 Peel Street, Huddersfield.

Venereal Diseases Clinics

Held at York Place, New North Road, Huddersfield, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Held at Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Held at the General Infirmary, Dewsbury, on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Hospitals

(a) Infectious Diseases: Cases of infectious diseases are treated at the Colne & Holme Joint Isolation Hospital, which is controlled by a Joint Board of representatives of the constituent authorities which include the Holmfirth Urban District Council.

Owing to staffing difficulties at the Colne & Holme Joint Isolation Hospital a number of patients have been admitted to the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital at Huddersfield.

(b) General Hospitals:

Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
Deanhouse County Hospital.

(c) Maternity:

Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.
Princess Royal Maternity Home, Huddersfield.
Various County Hospitals.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Water is supplied in the District by 3 statutory water undertakings, Holmfirth Urban District Council, Huddersfield Corporation and Batley Corporation.

Holmfirth Urban District Council

The Holmfirth undertaking which serves Holmfirth, Holme, New Mill and parts of Thurstonland, includes some 9 reservoirs varying in size from 67,000,000 gallons to 8,000 gallons, the largest being Holmestyes (67,000,000 gallons), Snape (6,500,000 gallons) and Greave which is now fed from Holmestyes and used as a service reservoir (3,000,000 gallons). The sources of supply to the reservoirs are mainly springs and streams, but a well sunk in 1930 provides the most reliable supply to the Snape Reservoir.

Water from Holmestyes, Snape, Bradshaw (300,000 gallons) and Netherthong (1,125,000 gallons), is chlorinated before distribution; that from Holmestyes is in addition filtered and treated with hydrated lime before chlorination.

Of the 6,101 houses in the Urban District 3,570 are supplied by the Holmfirth Council's undertaking, whilst 774 houses in the Council's statutory area of supply are not provided with water from public mains. No extensions of water mains were carried out during the year apart from those necessary to supply new housing estates, but 52 new connections were arranged.

Samples of water are submitted for bacteriological examination from time to time. During 1947, 11 samples were examined, 7 were reported as satisfactory, 3 as of doubtful quality and 1 as unsatisfactory. At the request of the County Council 26 samples were examined with regard to plumbo-solvency, all of which were reported as satisfactory.

Huddersfield Corporation

The area supplied by the Huddersfield Corporation undertaking comprises the major part of Honley together with parts of Thurstonland, Farnley Tyas and South Crosland. Approximately 4,000 persons are supplied from this source.

Batley Corporation

Some 600 persons in the Brockholes area of Honley are supplied with water from the mains of this authority.

In general the major part of the District is dequately supplied by these undertakings, but in some of the high level areas, particularly at Hepworth, the pressure is inadequate and at times the supply is intermittent. During the drought in the summer water carts were used to supply certain parts of the District. The supply is also inadequate in the Piper Junction and Haddingley area. Negotiations are at present in progress with the Huddersfield Corporation, Denby Dale and Kirkburton Urban District Councils, regarding an improved supply for this area.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are 3 treatment works provided to deal with the sewage of the District. The Neiley Works at Honley deal with the sewage from Holme and Holmfirth, the Sinking Wood Works at New Mill with sewage from New Mill, and the Berry Brow Works of the Honley & South Crosland Joint Sewage Board with sewage from Honley. In addition to these 3 principal works small disposal plants are in operation at Fulstone, Cartworth and Washpit. The populous parts of the District are fairly adequately sewered but improved means of disposal are required in some of the outlying parts, particularly at Hade Edge.

No extensions of sewers were carried out during the year except in connection with the Council's new housing estate at Moorlands, Scholes. Approximately 5,600 houses or 91.8% of the total in the District are connected to the Council's sewers.

Rivers and Streams

No action was taken during the year regarding the pollution of water courses with sewage from domestic or industrial premises.

Closet Accommodation

No recent accurate information is available to me regarding closet accommodation in the District, but it is known that in numerous instances provision is most unsatisfactory. There are still in use over 1,200 privy middens and over 150 pail closets. Before the war the Council made a grant of £5 to the owner of each privy converted into a water closet but in the early days of the war this grant was discontinued at the request of the Minister of Health.

During the year 26 privies were converted into water closets and 10 additional water closets were provided for existing houses. Energetic measures should be taken to reduce the number of privy and pail closets in the District.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Scavenging is undertaken throughout the District by direct labour under the direction of the Cleansing Superintendent, Mr. Irvin Haigh, 4 motor vehicles being employed in the work. Domestic refuse and pail closet contents are emptied approximately every 5 weeks. Sanitary dustbins are now provided at 5,410 houses.

About 30% of the refuse collected is destroyed at the Honley Destructor and about 60% is dealt with by controlled tipping at 4 tips situated at Foster Place, Site Bottom, Berry Banks and Scotgate Road.

Collection of waste food is arranged, 150 bins being distributed for the purpose throughout the District.

The collection of salvage has continued throughout the year and a considerable sum has been obtained from the sale of the material collected.

Shop Acts

During the year 53 visits and inspections were made of shops.

Smoke Abatement

Smoke observations were made of 7 industrial chimneys during the year and in 4 cases the emission of black smoke exceeded the 3 minute period allowed in the bye-law. During the year 1 Statutory Notice and 4 informal cautions were served.

Camping Sites

There are no sites in the area licensed under the provision of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no indoor swimming baths in the District but there are 2 outdoor pools to which the public have access. A total of 8 inspections were made during the year of these pools but no samples of water were submitted for examination by officials of the Council.

Regulated Buildings and Offensive Trades

There are no Common Lodging Houses or Houses Let in Lodgings in the area but 2 premises are registered for use of offensive trades, the business being in both cases that of tallow melting.

Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the District where Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Factories Act 1937

The submission of a separate report to the Director of Statistics of the Ministry of Labour, on Form 572, is now again in operation. The following is an extract from such report.

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are not to be enforced by L.As.	61	88	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies.	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises under the Act.	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	61	88	-	-

2. Cases in Which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Sanitary conveniences insufficient.	4	4	-	-
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	-

Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919

The Council are participating in the Ministry of Food's (Private Dwellings) Special Scheme 1946-47, and for this purpose have engaged 1 full-time Rodent Operator.

Surveys of infestation have been carried out and the Council's sewers have been baited.

Schools

There are in the District 18 schools, 12 being County Schools including 1 Secondary (Modern) School and 1 Grammar School, and 6 being Voluntary Schools. No schools were closed on account of infectious diseases during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Nuisances reported and found during the year..... 215
Informal Notices served..... 181
Informal Notices complied with..... 180
Statutory Notices served..... 46
Statutory Notices complied with..... 34
Summons and legal proceedings..... NIL

SECTION IV

HOUSING

Housing is probably the most pressing need of the District at the present time. During the year no routine housing inspections were made and recorded as required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, but defects found in 12 houses as a result of complaints were remedied.

The housing records in the Department are far from satisfactory and a complete house to house survey of the whole District is urgently required. Without such a survey it is impossible to form a proper appreciation of the sanitary conditions prevailing in the District.

Overcrowding

No details are available to me of cases of overcrowding. This lack of information emphasises the need for a complete housing survey.

Provision of New Houses

The Council's post war building programme made reasonable progress during the year, 44 new houses being completed by the Council, and 9 by private enterprise.

At the end of the year a further 104 houses were under construction by the Council on 4 sites as shown below.

Roundway, Honley.	40
Moorlands, Scholes.: (Airey type).	40
Moorlands, Scholes.: (Traditional type).	14
Oakes Avenue, Brockholes.	10

In addition 7 houses were in course of erection by private enterprise.

SECTION V

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Practically all the milk supplied in the District is produced within the area and distributed mainly by the producers. A quantity of milk is sold wholesale for distribution in neighbouring towns. None of the milk sold in the District is Pasteurised or Heat-treated.

Particulars of registered premises and dairymen are as follows:-

Number of cow-keepers in the District		229
Number registered for milk production		169
Number actually producing at 31st December, 1947		158
Approximate number of cowsheds		400
Approximate number of dairy cows		1,250
Number of farms producing Designated Milk:	(a) Tuberculin Tested	15
	(b) Accredited	9
Number producing Non-Designated Milk		134
Number of dairymen registered as:	(a) Wholesalers	16
	(b) Producer-Retailers	153

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies have continued throughout the year. Whilst some premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition others leave much to be desired. Provision of proper milk rooms and means of sterilising utensils by steam are still needed in a number of cases.

Only 3 samples of non-designated milk were submitted for examination by the "Methylene Blue" Test, whilst none were examined bioligically for the presence of tubercle bacilli. A total of 10 samples were examined by the Sedimentation Test for the presence of dirt, etc.

It is highly desirable that more frequent sampling of non-designated milk should be undertaken.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1939-1946

The following licences were granted during the year:-

(a)	By the Holmfirth Urban District Council		NIL
(b)	By the West Riding County Council: (Producers' Licences)	(1) Tuberculin Tested	15
		(2) Accredited	9

During the year 2 new licences were granted by the County Council to produce and bottle Tuberculin Tested milk.

Ice Cream

At the end of 1947 there was 1 premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and 12 registered for sale only.

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

Meat

No regular slaughtering of animals has been carried out at any of the slaughterhouses in the District, all of which have remained virtually closed by reason of the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order 1940. All meat for sale in the District is derived from the Government controlled slaughterhouse and depot at Huddersfield where inspection is carried out.

A considerable number of pigs were slaughtered for the producers' own consumption under Ministry of Food licences.

In many instances the premises used for slaughter were totally unsatisfactory for the purpose. The Sanitary Inspectors have spent a considerable amount of time, mostly on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, visiting outlying farms in order to inspect pig carcases. During the year a total of 609 carcases were inspected, 17 of which were found to be diseased.

There are 10 slaughterhouses in the District, 1 being registered and the remainder licensed. During the year 108 inspections of these premises have been made.

The number of butchers' shops in the District is 26, whilst the number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act for the manufacture of sausages, potted meat, etc., is 22.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933

The number of licences in operation during the year was 37, of which 21 expired during the year; 17 were renewed and 12 new licences were issued.

Bread

There are 17 bakehouses in the District, 1 of which is underground. During the year 54 inspections of these premises were made.

Food & Drugs Act 1933

The West Riding County Council is the authority responsible for the Food Adulteration Section of the Act. The following particulars of samples taken during the year have been supplied by the Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures:-

Milk samples examined.....	55
Dry goods examined.....	14
Prosecutions in respect of milk samples.....	1
Cautions issued in respect of dry goods.....	2

SECTION VI

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year Measles was much more prevalent than in the previous year.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox were notified in the District during the year.

Diphtheria

During the year 2 cases of Diphtheria were notified, but in only 1 case was the diagnosis confirmed. The patient, a male of 16 years, was admitted to the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield, where he made a good recovery.

Supplies of Anti-Toxin were supplied to medical practitioners for the treatment of suspected cases and contacts on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

The work in connection with the immunization campaign continued during the year, the inoculations being carried out under the County Council's scheme by general practitioners and officers of the County Health Department.

During the year 27 children of school age and 171 children under 5 years of age received a complete course of injections. In addition 313 children who had been inoculated some years ago received "booster" doses. Owing to the incomplete records available, it is impossible to give an accurate estimate of the total number of children in the District who have received a complete course of injections.

Scarlet Fever

During the year 9 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 8 of which were confirmed, as compared with 15 in the previous year. Of these 8 cases, 4 occurred in the Fulstone Ward, 2 in the Wooldale Ward and 1 each in the Austonley and Scholes Wards. Although the disease was mild in character in most of the cases all the patients were admitted to hospital, 7 cases being sent to the Colne & Holme Joint Isolation Hospital and 1 each to the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield, and the Penistone Isolation Hospital.

Whooping Cough

Cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year numbered 44, as compared with 81 in the previous year. Of these cases 18 occurred in the Scholes Ward and 9 in the Hepworth Ward. The distribution of the cases is shown in the table given below.

Ward	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Austonley	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cartworth	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fulstone	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hepworth	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	9
Holme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honley Central	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Honley East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honley South	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Honley West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherthong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Central	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Scholes	1	-	-	-	1	8	4	2	1	-	-	1	18
South Central	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Thurstonland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upperthong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wooldale	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
TOTALS	3	4	1	3	10	12	6	2	2	-	-	1	44

Measles

A total of 211 cases of Measles were notified during the year as compared with only 6 in the previous year. Of these cases 126 occurred the first three months of the year. The distribution of the cases is shown in the following table.

Ward	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Austonley	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cartworth	-	-	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Fulstone	3	6	-	-	3	2	1	2	4	1	-	-	22
Hepworth	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	11	-	-	21
Holme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Honley Central	1	2	13	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Honley East	-	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Honley South	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Honley West	4	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Netherthong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Central	-	-	16	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	21
Scholes	1	2	3	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	10
South Central	2	5	19	1	-	6	-	-	1	2	-	-	36
Thurstonland	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Upperthong	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	6
Wooldale	9	17	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	32
TOTALS	21	37	68	12	14	16	9	7	13	14	-	-	211

Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia

There were 11 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia notified during the year as compared with 17 in 1946. No cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. Of these 11 cases, 5 occured in the Netherthong Ward, 2 in the South Central Ward and 1 each in the Austonley, Cartworth, Honley South and North Central Wards.

Deaths registered during 1947 as due to all forms of Pneumonia totalled 6, the same number as in 1946.

Enteric Fever and Dysentery

No cases of these diseases were notified during the year and no deaths were notified as attributable to them.

Erysipelas

During the year 2 cases of Erysipelas were notified, both being adult males.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There was 1 notification of Puerperal Pyrexia during the year, the case being a patient in the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital who made a satisfactory recovery.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and Acute Polioencephalitis

A total of 5 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, as compared with 1 in the previous year. Of these cases, 2 of the patients were resident in the Honley Central Ward and 1 each in the Honley West, North Central and Wooldale Wards. All 5 patients were children, 3 being under 5 years of age and the others 6 and 10 years respectively. They were all removed to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and 1 child made a complete recovery, but 3 still have residual paralysis of the legs which necessitates the wearing of irons, while the remaining child has paralysis of one arm.

During the year 1 patient, a woman of 36 years, was notified as a case of Acute Poliocencephalitis. She was admitted to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary where she died from Acute Bulbar Paralysis the day after admission.

Cancer

The number of deaths attributable to Cancer during the year totalled 38 (18 male, 20 female), the same number as in the previous year. The Cancer death rate for the year is 2.03 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with a rate of 2.06 for the previous year. The corresponding rates for the Administrative County and the Urban Districts are 1.80 and 1.87 respectively.

Tuberculosis

A total of 15 new cases were added to the Notification Register during the year, as compared with 7 in the previous year.

A total of 4 deaths (1 male, 3 female) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were recorded during the year, and deaths from all other forms of Tuberculosis numbered 2, making a total of 6 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis as compared with 7 in the previous year.

The following tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis for the year 1947.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
(a) Number of cases on Register at commencement of year:	15	18	20	26
(b) Number of cases notified first time during the year:	6	5	-	4
(c) Number of cases restored to the Register:	-	-	-	-
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by notification:	-	-	-	-
(e) Number of cases removed from the Register:	1	3	-	3
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register:	20	20	20	27

New Cases

Age	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
6	-	1	-	-
8	-	-	-	1
20	1	-	-	-
21	-	1	-	-
23	-	1	-	-
24	-	1	-	1
25	1	-	-	-
28	1	-	-	-
30	1	-	-	-
31	1	-	-	1
35	1	-	-	-
36	-	-	-	1
58	-	1	-	-
Total:	6	5	-	4

TABLE SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total number of cases Notified	Number of cases in which Diagnosis Confirmed	Number of cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Age distribution of confirmed cases.																									
					0- 1		1- 2		2- 3		3- 4		4- 5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65		Over 65		Un-known	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Measles	211	211	-	-	4	3	6	8	10	8	11	12	19	11	48	63	3	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	44	44	-	-	-	3	1	4	3	2	6	4	3	7	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	11	11	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	1	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	9	8	9 *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	5	5	5 †	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	2	1	1 ‡	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	1	1 †	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1 ∅	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* (7 cases to Colne & Holme Joint Isolation Hospital, Meltham.
(1 case to Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield.
(1 case to Penistone Isolation Hospital.

† To Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.
‡ To Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield.
∅ To Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, Holmfirth.

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